

California State Journal of Medicine.

Published Monthly by the
Medical Society of the State of California

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Chairman and Editor
GEORGE H. EVANS, M. D. G. F. REINHARDT, M. D.
C. D. McGETTIGAN, M. D. HARRY M. SHERMAN, M. D.

JOHN J. HARRISON Business Manager

Members of the Society are requested to promptly notify the publication office of change of address, in order that mailing list may be corrected. Secretaries of County Societies are also requested to notify the "Journal" of deaths, removals, etc., and send in names of new members and their postoffice address.

Communications on subjects of interest to the profession are invited. The "Journal" is not responsible for the views advanced by correspondents. Address letters relating to the "Journal" to the publication office, 31 Post Street, San Francisco.

Subscription price to non-members of California affiliated county medical societies, \$3.00 per year, in advance; single copies, 25 cents. Subscriptions may be sent to publication office, 31 Post St., San Francisco, or to the San Francisco News Co., 342 Geary St., or any of its agents.

JANUARY, 1904.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The JOURNAL is more than glad to felicitate every member of the Society upon the completion of its first year of life, and to extend to all its heartiest good wishes for a still more profitable New Year. From a mere child in long clothes, the Society has grown in one year to a pretty vigorous youth, representing the potential strength of something over one-half of the eligible physicians of the State. Its growth has been phenomenal and is increasing with marvelous rapidity. The last issue of the JOURNAL was several hundred copies larger than ever before, yet the additions to the list of members from the time the order was given to the time the JOURNAL was mailed were so many as to practically exhaust the December issue. Since the 1st of September nine county societies have been organized, with a total membership of 152. And it is not so much the actual as the relative membership, for these county societies have enrolled about four-fifths of the eligible physicians in their districts. That is good solid progress. The Register of Physicians has been issued and is a pretty good book. It will be issued every year, by the Society, and with the co-operation of county society secretaries can be made even more accurate than the present volume. We are considering the addition of physicians of Oregon and Washington, and making the Register a Tri-State Register. What do you think of the idea? The compliments of the season have been earned; we hope they will be even more deserved this time next year.

The editor has attended several meetings for the organization of county societies, and has been struck by one thing more particularly than any other—the desire of the physicians who get together to form such societies to omit the long, tiresome papers compiled from text books or journals, and to confine the work of the society meetings to short, pithy papers or reports that deal with practical questions and actual experiences. That is just what we all really need. Some men seem to have the diabolic faculty of putting together a mass of stuff making a paper of great length which is painful to even read for the printer, when everything that they had to say could have been said in one-tenth of the space. No one cares for such dissertations, for as a rule they contain mighty little real meat and a whole lot of fat and sinew. Mere length does not necessarily mean real merit. The JOURNAL is going to try to leave out these long papers of the sort indicated, and to keep its pages for papers of genuine worth of the practical sort, or papers that have sufficient merit to justify their length. All papers read at county society meetings should be sent to the publication office of the Society. If they are good, they will be published; if they are not, they *should not* be published. We cannot guarantee to publish every paper sent in, but if you will see to it that all papers read are sent to us, we shall certainly keep you well supplied with pretty good food for mental digestion. Start the new year right by acting upon this suggestion, and then size up the JOURNAL on the completion of Volume II.

On December 7th, before the Supreme Court sitting in bank, was called the case, *ex parte* Gerino, *habeas corpus*. For SUITS AGAINST THE EXAMINERS. Gerino appeared ex-judge Garoutte, and in defense of the statute Mr. Charles Wheeler made the argument upon the briefs prepared by attorneys Tait and McGuire. The contention of Mr. Garoutte was that the law regulating the practice of medicine was unconstitutional, for the reasons that (1) representation upon the Board was unfair and special legislation, the regular school having five members and the other schools but two each. And (2), that the clause in Sec. 5 of the act (as printed on page 181 of the Register), beginning "Said Board may, in its discretion accept and register * * * without examination," etc., is class legislation and allows the Board to discriminate against an individual. To the first contention the reply was made that all governments had found the necessity to legally restrain and confine the practice of medicine to those who are properly qualified; that such regulation is a police measure; that the carrying out